

TAB

SECRET

Approved For Release 2005/12/24 : CIA-RDP80B01495R000500110007-1
THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

Executive Registry

74-4747/A

19 SEP 1974

DDI-2756-74

NIO #2031-74

The Honorable J. William Middendorf II
Secretary of the Navy
Department of the Navy
Washington, D.C. 20350

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Thank you for bringing the Department of State memorandum on Somalia and USSR to my attention. I think the memo focuses on many of the issues related to the Soviet presence in Somalia and the Indian Ocean as well. Although the Soviet presence in Somalia is small and growing slowly, the Somalia port and communications facilities are by far the most important to the day-to-day operation of the Soviet navy in the Indian Ocean.

There are some features of the Soviet presence in Somalia that should be kept in mind and which bear directly on the future relationship of the Soviets and Somalis. The Soviets have maintained a very low profile in Somalia probably due to the demonstrated Somali sensitivity about Soviet bases in that country. The existence of a new "Friendship Treaty" between the USSR and Somalia [redacted] is as yet unsubstantiated and recent Somali disclaimers of Soviet base rights in Somalia tend to discredit that report.

25X1

We expect the Soviets to develop further the facilities in Somalia but that development will be gradual and small. We likewise expect that the Somalis will maintain their sovereign rights in the Berbera area.

Sincerely,

/s/ Bill

W. E. Colby

25X1

Distribution:

Original - Addressee

- 1 - DDI (wo/basic)
- 1 - NIO/CF (w/basic)
- 1 - NIO/RI (wo/basic)

Approved For Release 2005/12/24 : CIA-RDP80B01495R000500110007-1

- 1 - DDCL (wo/basic)
- 1 - DCI (wo/basic)

SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Mr. Walsh

There is a misstatement in this memo, which I called to John Bird's attention-- unfortunately the original had already been signed by the DCI and sent out.

There is no question that a friendship treaty was signed; that's public knowledge.

I have sent info copies to OCI and OSR.

Neil
Neil

20 Sept 1974
(DATE)

FORM NO. 101 REPLACES FORM 10-101
1 AUG 54 WHICH MAY BE USED.

(47)